# Educational and Employment Sub Committee- Autism Commission

# Team Meeting

Date | time 7/11/2023 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM| Location Virtual

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Meeting called by | Sub Committee Chairs | |  |  | | Facilitator | Commissioner Toni Wolf and Sacha Stadhard | |  |  | | Note taker | Dianne Lescinskas | |  |  | | Additional Reading Information:  Proposed Recommendations for Submission to the Autism Commission found in the agenda appendix. |

## Agenda Items

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| Topic **Welcome and Check In** |  |  | Time allotted |

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|  | Updated and Announcements from All |  |  |  | | 15 mins |
|  | Review and Discuss Proposed Recommendations for Submission to the Autism Commission:   * Recommendation 1: Promoting Racial Equity in Placement Decisions * Recommendation 2: Strengthening School Transition Programming |  |  |  | | 25 mins |
|  | Discussion on Maximizing the Subcommittee:   * Please share feedback on the effectiveness of the committee, e.g., what has been successful and where are improvements needed. |  |  |  | | 15 mins  5 mins |
|  | Adjourn |  |  |  |
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Appendix:

Proposed Recommendations to the Autism Commission

**Recommendation 1: Promoting Racial Equity in Placement Decisions**

Recognizing that all student placement decisions are based on individual team decisions, the

14-22+/Employment Subcommittee recommends that Massachusetts school districts and

families be made aware of the higher percentage of autistic students of color being placed in

substantially separate classrooms when compared to white autistic students, as data collected

by DESE’s Office of Public School Monitoring has found. The subcommittee recommends that

DESE (1) share with all Massachusetts school districts and families data on the placement of

students whose primary disability is autism, broken into race, gender, English learner status,

and income level; (2) continue collecting and publicly disseminating this data; (3) continue and

increase its racial equity professional development and support regarding the intersection of

race and special education for decisions affecting student placement, graduation rates,

attendance rates, discipline rates and physical restraints. The goal of this recommendation is to

raise awareness of student placements and to promote racial equity in educational decisions

affecting autistic students of color.

**Recommendation 2: Strengthening School Transition Programming**

In order to strengthen school transition programming for students with disabilities ages 14 and

older, the 14-22+/Employment Subcommittee recommends that Massachusetts school districts

and families be provided information regarding potentially available programming for this cohort

of students, including information about the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission’s

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent

Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI)....[other programs/services to list?] The Subcommittee

recommends that this information be developed by DESE and the Federation for Children with

Special Needs, with input from this Subcommittee, as part of the Federation’s Parent Training

programs and materials.